requirement that needs to be met on a ' priority basis. The Housing Minister's Conference, 1998 is likely to help the process of consultation with the State GBfcrnmcnts/UTs in formulation of a new Housing and Habitat Policy.

As per estimates by Working Group on Urban Housing, there was a shortage of 7.57 million units in urban areas and a total of 16.76 million units would have to be constructed to meet the demand. Out of this requirement 15.02 million units would be required for EWS and L1G categories.

The Action Plan prepared in ptfrsuancc of National Agenda for Governance en- i visages construction of additional 7 lakhs units in urban areas every years. Thus a total of 35 lakhs houses will be constructed in a five year period which would meet roughly 20% of the total demand.

Working Pattertifof CPWD

1339. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. MOHAN BABU.

Will the Minister of URBAN AP-FAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whethgr the CPWD is getting majority of the works done through the contractors.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CPWD contractors lay jhuggics on Government land for their labourers and for their stores turning Government colonies into slums; and

(d) if so, the steps to get all such jhuggics removed from the Government colonics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BAN-DARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Given the quantum of workforce required to execute large number of works, ifcffenot prudent to employ workers on a regular basis and thereby increase the cost of establishment.

(c) Contractors make jhuggics on Govt, land for their labourers and stores in terms of contract with the contractorcs which remain there till completion of the work. After completion of the work, these jhuggics are removed by the contractors before handing over the building for its use. No slums are created in colonies on account of this.

(d) No action in view of reply at (c) above.

Contaminated Drinking water in Delhi

1340. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drinking water in Delhi is highly contaminated;

(b) if so, whether the scientists of AIIMS have found various diseases in drinking water in Delhi;

(c) whether Union Government and State Government jointly propose to take any steps to provide non-polluted water to its residents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that they have not received any report from the scientists of AIIMS in regard to various diseases found in the drinking water in Delhi and the drinking water being supplied conforms to the laid down norms. However, certain instances of contamination of water had come to the notice of the Delhi Jal Board recently. The cquse of contamination was investigated and the same rectified. In order to ensure the potability of water being supplied to consumers and to avoid any possibility of contamination, the work of flushing and cleaning of reservoirs, overhead tanks and dead-ends in distribution system is done regularly. All concerned agencies like NDMC, CPWD, Delhi Cantonment Board, Cooperative Societies